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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

TOPIC 1. 12th PS Brigade in Plana

2. Troops in Zilina

635430

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

23 April 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. On 6 December 1953, the 12th PS Brigade, with headquarters in the Plana (N 50/P 55) castle, was organized into four battalions and training units. The 1st Bn was stationed at Zandov (N 51/P 46), the 2d Bn at Halze (N 50/P 44), the 3d Bn at Lesna (N 50/P 43), and the 4th Bn at Rozvadov (N 50/P 43). In October 1953, numerous reassignments were effected within the brigade. The previous brigade commander, Major Janu (fnu), was superseded by an officer who allegedly was a lieutenant.

2. The 3d Bn in Lesna, which was commanded by Senior Lieutenant Vasicek (fnu), prior to October 1953, was organized into four companies. The men of the old 14th Co, which had been deactivated, were reassigned to the other units of the battalion. In December 1953, the 10th Co (former 11th Co) was stationed at Pavluv Studenec (N 50/P 44), the 11th Co (former 12th Co) at Bornavky Les (Baernauer Wald, N 50/P 44), the 12th Co (former 13th Co) at Vindiskrec (N 50/P 33), and the 13th Co (former 15th Co) at Pochr (N 50/P 43).² The 3d Bn also included a reserve unit of about 70 men, signal personnel, drivers, cooks, etc. The battalion headquarters had about 4 RN trucks, 3 sedans, and 4 motorcycles.

3. The new commanding officer of the 11th Co was Lieutenant Pospisilik (fnu), who allegedly came from the Bratislava (P 49/X 99) PS Brig. Lieutenant Kriz (fnu), his deputy, said that he came from the Olomouc (P 50/A 85) military academy. Prior to October 1953,

Weapons available to the 11th Co consisted of 30 submachine guns, 25 model 98-M rifles, 3 light machine guns, 1 heavy machine gun, 2 AT weapons of a novel type, 1 Soviet-made AT shell with handle weighing 2 kilograms, 3 rifles with telescopic sights, and some pistols. The AT weapons were not used for training. The company was equipped with one Jawa motorcycle, 5 riding horses, 2 draft horses, and 2 trained dogs. It was organized into 3 rifle squads each numbering 7 men, 1 dog-handler squad of 3 men, 1 heavy machine gun squad of 4 men, and one headquarters squad including 2 cooks, 1 driver, 1 accountant, 1 first sergeant and 1 political officer.

4. Marksmen of the companies who participated in a record practice in Eger (Cheb) (N 51/P 37) said that a major maneuver involving the units stationed at Karlsbad (Karlov Vary) (N 51/P 69) was held around Kynz Vart (N 51/P 56) in October 1953.⁴ Soldiers of the 11th Co said that the term of active service with PS units was extended from two years to 31 months.³

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5. In early December 1953, about 40 soldiers wearing black epaulets were observed in the Budatin (Q 50/O 92) castle, directly northwest of Zilina (Q 50/O 92). About 10 RN trucks were parked in the castle area. The castle, which was still occupied by civilians in 1951, was located about 1,500 meters northwest of the Zilina railroad station.

1. Comment. The information confirms 12th PS Brig in Plana and its four battalions until December 1953.

2. Comment. The 14th Co was deactivated in the summer of 1952. The 11th through 15th Cos originally belonged to the 3d Bn. As the present report also mentions the 10th Co it is believed that one company of the 1st or 2d Bn was also deactivated.

3.

4. Comment. This maneuver was probably held at the Kaiserwald training grounds.

5. Comment. The extension of the term of active service with PS units was mentioned in several previous reports. Discharges were apparently effected in January 1954 since newly assigned border guard troops were familiarized with the terrain in various border sectors in late January 1954.

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